



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
HORIZON PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER
15444 NORTH 100TH STREET,
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2006**

PRESENT: Donn Loper, Chairperson (arrived at 5:08 p.m.)
Shelley Anderson, Vice-Chair
Dean Cerimeli
John Faramelli
Ronald Petersen

ABSENT: Robert Frost
Ron King

STAFF: Tim Barnard, CIP Project Coordinator
Leslie Clark, Parks & Recreation Manager
Craig Clifford, General Manager of Financial Services
Jona Davis, Senior Recreation Coordinator
Lisa Gurtler, Finance Manager in Financial Services
Bob Gwinn, Recreation Coordinator
Kelli Kurtz, Assistant Coordinator
William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director
Doug Nesselroad, Parks & Recreation Manager
Preson Phillips, Parks and Grounds Maintenance
Worker III at Horizon Park
Reed Pryor, Parks and Grounds Management Manager
Eddie Quintana, Teen Programmer
Ryan Stee, Parks & Grounds Management Technician
Rose Williams, Parks & Grounds Management Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

At the request of Vice-Chair Anderson, a moment of silence was observed.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 1, 2006.

COMMISSIONER FAREMELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2006 MEETING. COMMISSIONER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 4 (FOUR) TO 0 (ZERO).

4. BUDGET EXPENDITURE LIMIT (Information item)

Mr. Clifford distributed copies of a presentation regarding the State expenditure limit. The Financial Services Department is recommending putting a change on the ballot to take care of the increased sales tax revenue approved by the City voters in 2004. As the City opens new facilities the expenditure limit needs to be adjusted to be able to pay the operating costs. Mr. Clifford emphasized that the City has the funds to operate, but the expenditure limit needs to be raised to permit the City to spend its funds. Another factor driving the need to raise the limit is the cost of information technology today.

The Department recommends going to the public to ask them to approve an adjustment to the expenditure limit. This will not cause a tax increase. The limit is imposed mainly on the City services budget. Core services such as police, fire, water and sewer are a priority. If this limit is not changed, the cuts would likely have to be made to the quality of life services.

Commissioner Faramelli asked whether it is true that if the base is not adjusted, the Parks and Recreation facilities will be affected. Mr. Clifford replied that Financial Services has not premised any specific cuts. Staff have been working on a balanced budget. However, if voters do not approve this measure, Financial Services staff expect that the City would exceed the expenditure limit. As a penalty, the State would withhold Scottsdale's share of State shared revenues, approximately \$40 million annually. Tough decisions would have to be made to adjust the City's budget.

Commissioner Faramelli noted that as more facilities are opened the problem would be compounded. Mr. Clifford concurred, but stressed that he was not there to raise alarms or to single out the Parks and Recreation Division. Because the City must maintain certain core services, the reality is that certain areas are more susceptible to cutbacks.

Vice-Chair Anderson asked how much of the impact is attributable to the new Fire Department. Mr. Clifford noted that it had little effect, since the City was already paying Rural/Metro. Most of the transition costs were capital expenses, hence exempt from the expenditure limit. Mr. Clifford noted that a total 115 Police officers have been added since 2004. Voters approved the 2004 Public Safety Tax measure for this increase and the City has the revenue to pay for this, but he repeated that the expenditure limit needs to be adjusted.

Commissioner Faramelli observed that the vote is on May 16th and there is a lot of confusion in the minds of the public about this issue. This is an important matter for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He asked whether information is available. Mr. Clifford replied that the election pamphlets are about to be mailed to citizens. The City website has some information about Proposition 402. He plans to speak with all of the Boards and Commissions, but staff is limited in what they can do. He understood that two Political Action Committees have registered with the City Clerk. One PAC is in favor of Proposition 402, and one is against it.

Mr. Clifford confirmed to Chairperson Loper that the City is not obligated to spend that money. Once the expenditure limit is raised City Council follows the process for setting the City budget and approving expenditures. Noting that typically election pamphlets include pro and con arguments, Chairperson Loper asked Mr. Clifford why anyone would be against Proposition 402. Mr. Clifford opined that the limit was put in place many

years ago. It works to a certain extent, but is hard for voters to comprehend and each citizen has their own opinion about government spending and controls.

Commissioner Faramelli noted the public misperception that this proposition entails a tax increase. A discussion ensued. Mr. Clifford recalled that 1999 was the last time this matter was on the ballot, and it was successful. Chairperson Loper thanked Mr. Clifford for his presentation.

5. HORIZON PARK UPDATE (Information item)

Mr. Gwinn updated the Commission about the activities at Horizon Park and introduced staff.

Ms. Kurtz described the after-school program. She invited the Commission members to attend a sports barbecue on April 21st. On April 28th, program staff plan to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a program tree and inviting the parents and Commissioners.

Mr. Quintana presented the teen program for 11-15 year-olds, describing the activities and plans for summer camp. Attendance after school averages 20 to 30 youth, with 30 to 50 for Friday nights. The summer program is expected to draw 50 to 80 teenagers.

Chairperson Loper commended Mr. Gwinn on the programs. Mr. Gwinn urged the Commission members to visit on April 21st when there will be a teen dance with a California theme following the sports barbecue. He noted that Horizon Park was voted the best place to take your dog in the New Times awards and by a poll in 101 Magazine. Many of the amenities in the Off leash activity area were paid by community fundraising efforts. The park is extremely busy, with outdoor attendance of 237,000 and indoor attendance of 74,000 in 2005.

6. NORTH PARKS UPDATE (Information item)

Mr. Pryor used a map of the North Scottsdale Maintenance Areas to show the Commission the areas that his staff is responsible for. He described the variety of services staff provide, and reviewed staffing levels and vacancies. Their responsibilities include parks, bus stop maintenance, ensuring that bags are picked up after neighborhood cleanup efforts, and working with the Fire Department to keep areas free of brush that could lead to fires. The Police Department has given the staff recommendations on how to make parks safer by reducing potential hiding spots.

Commissioner Cerimeli asked how service levels vary between DC Ranch and Mountain View Park. Mr. Pryor replied that these two facilities are at the same service level. He explained that the Stadium and the Mall are examples of service level I, while these two parks are at service level II.

Chairperson Loper had a question about Arbor Day, noting that while it is a good thing because the City is planting more trees, they require maintenance and care. Mr. Phillips, who is a certified arborist, described the scope of the work his staff does at different facilities.

Vice-Chair Anderson noted that she usually brings shears so that she can trim along the trails where she rides her horse. She asked Mr. Pryor how his staff decide which trails they are going to clean, as there are boulders obstructing some of the trails. Mr. Pryor replied that Jody Pierce inspects the trails regularly and notes work to be done. In the meantime he encouraged people to call and report any problems they encounter. Vice-Chair Anderson commented that there are many miles of trails to be inspected. Mr. Pryor added that staff work with Scott Hamilton, Trails Planner.

Commissioner Faramelli asked whether there is a maintenance yard at WestWorld. Mr. Phillips replied that this is a separate department.

Commissioner Petersen asked whether it is true that Cholla Park is the most vandalized park and if so, why? Mr. Phillips replied it is very sporadic. He had noticed homeless individuals using Cholla Park, but the police department has moved them on. Graffiti is an issue in various parks. Speaking as a horticulturalist, he

particularly dislikes people driving on grass to vandalize it. This is an ongoing problem at McDowell Mountain Ranch Park.

Vice-Chair Anderson reported she had found Stonegate locked and closed before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 3. Mr. Pryor replied that the facility should not have been locked at that time. He added that graffiti is becoming a problem at the CAP Basin and the police are helping with enhanced patrols.

7. PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION RE-ALIGNMENT (Information item)

Mr. Doug Nesselroad, Parks and Recreation Manager, reported there has been significant turnover in staff. At a retreat facilitated by a consultant, staff had the opportunity to share ideas with the full time coordinators. From this emerged a greater focus on youth development with more after school and summer youth programs. He reviewed changes in staff responsibilities and office location and organization. Mr. Nesselroad noted a number of staff vacancies that the Division is anxious to fill.

Mr. William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, introduced Tim Barnard, a new staff member who will work on capital improvements projects and planning. Mr. Barnard outlined his past experience with Mesa, Peoria, and Glendale. Mr. Murphy noted that Grayhawk Community Park is the next big capital project Tim will facilitate.

Vice-Chairperson Anderson asked Mr. Barnard whether he has experience in planning parks. He replied that he has been involved in strategic planning, master planning and land acquisition, coordinating the many aspects of creating new facilities.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K)) (Information item)

Mr. Murphy announced that the Youth Task Force will meet on Monday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Press Box at the Stadium.

Commissioner Cerimeli noted there have been many e-mails regarding different maintenance levels at different ball fields. He suggested that there would be a presentation on the differences in maintenance level at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Murphy outlined how service levels are assigned to various facilities. Community parks are mostly service level II. The division has identified the Soccer Complex at the CAP Basin as a service level I facility, as are the Stadium and the Civic Center Mall because of use and specialty requirements of flowers and winter grass.

The IGA that the Division has with the schools district is for the staff to provide seasonal work on the fields. The Division does not establish the service model the school district has. Mr. Murphy acknowledged that there has been confusion recently about this matter and he hopes that this will be cleared up at the Youth Task Force meeting Monday.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Faramelli, Mr. Murphy confirmed that Pima School is under the IGA for maintenance.

Vice-Chair Anderson asked about the school budgets for individual schools. Mr. Murphy replied that he was unsure how the school district allocates funding to individual schools.

Vice-Chair Anderson explained her point was that there may be factors affecting the appearance of school grounds that are not related to the Parks Division. Commissioner Faramelli pointed out that volunteers are more active at some schools than others. Commissioner Petersen clarified that to his knowledge, there is no difference in funding between different schools. Some have more active PTOs which may raise funds for landscaping. Commissioner Cerimeli remarked that he would like to know what accounts for the apparent differences in service levels between the grounds of different schools. Mr. Murphy undertook to address this issue at a future commission meeting.

Mr. Murphy reminded the Commission of the Starlight Sleepover scheduled for April 29th at the Stadium. The Division will receive awards from the Governor and the State Land Department on April 28th at the Capitol. They will host Arbor Day on Tuesday, May 2nd at 10:30 a.m. at Scottsdale Stadium. The Commissioners are welcome to attend. The Culinary Arts Festival will take place at the Civic Center from Friday, April 21st through Sunday, April 23rd.

Staff have already begun planting summer flowers in the downtown areas. In late April, staff will undertake some extensive tree work and work on the medians of major arterial roads.

Mr. Nesselroad announced that there will be a public involvement meeting regarding the lighting of Mescal Arena at Via Linda Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11th. Mr. Murphy clarified that Mr. Don Happ, the City's lighting consultant, will present information to the neighbors at the meeting. Design work is still in progress.

Mr. Nesselroad outlined other upcoming events. Project Paws will focus on family pets with information on how to take care of pets. This event is on Saturday, April 29th at Vista del Camino Park. Commissioner Cerimeli has volunteered for the fishing derby which is part of this event.

The Skate Park competition is also scheduled for April 29th. Vice-Chair Anderson has volunteered. Steps across Scottsdale is a 3-mile walk starting at Eldorado Park at 9:00 a.m. on April 29th. This event is free and is intended to promote healthy lifestyles. Scottsdale HealthCare is a co-sponsor.

Scottsdale Ranch Park was selected as the USTA Phoenix member organization of the year for 2005. An award will be presented in due course.

9. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

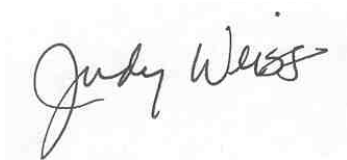
No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

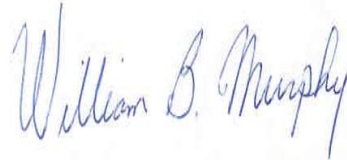
With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss, Director
Parks and Recreation



William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Grounds Management